



Brecksville

United Church of Christ

23 Public Square • Brecksville • Ohio • 44141 • 440-526-4364

***Loving, Serving and Accepting All People
with God's Life-Changing Power***

"I am the breeze
that nurtures
all things green.
I encourage
blossoms to flourish
with ripening fruits.
I am the rain
coming from
the dew
that causes
the grasses
to laugh
with the joy of life."

- Hildegard of
Bingen,
12th century mystic



Coloring by Mira Corrado

4TH Sunday of Easter - April 30TH, 2023 • 10:00 AM

Pastor

• John King

Director of Music

• David Debick

Financial Secretary

• Joy Garapic

Office Manager

• Anne Melfo

Ministers – All of Our Members

Affirmation of Welcome

We are an Open and Affirming Congregation, welcoming ALL of God's children.

*Whether you are single, married, divorced, separated,
or partnered,*

You Are Welcome Here!

Whatever your race, ethnicity, or age,

You Are Welcome Here!

Whatever your gender identity or sexual orientation,

You Are Welcome Here!

Whatever your religious background, creed, or spirituality,

You Are Welcome Here!

Whatever your social or economic circumstances,

You Are Welcome Here!

Whatever your health conditions, impairments, or mobility needs,

You Are Welcome Here!

***Whoever we may be, wherever we are on our life's journey,
We welcome one another to this place,
Even as God welcomes us all in Jesus Christ!***



- *Please sign our guest book in the narthex before you leave - if you are interested in learning more about our church, please feel free to speak to our pastor.*
- *Hearing difficulty? Please talk to any usher about a Personal Sound receiver available for your use.*

Office Hours:

Mon., Tues., Wed., Thurs.: 9:30am - 12:30pm

Church Phone: 440-526-4364

e-mail: buccoffice23@gmail.com – web address: www.BrecksvilleUCC.org

Please submit your announcements by noon on Wednesday – Thank You!

April 30TH, 2023

4TH Sunday of Easter

Prelude

Meditation on tune “Resignation”

Charles Callahan

Welcome & Announcements

Quiet Meditation as Peace Candle is Brought Forward

*"The love of all living creatures is the most noble attribute of a human."
– Charles Darwin*

Gathering in God's Presence

** Please Stand as you are able*

*** Call to Worship:** *(after Psalm 23)*

Reader: Let us pray these familiar words, recognizing in the Risen Christ our Good Shepherd:

**People: Jesus, you are our shepherd.
We shall not want.**

Reader: Jesus invites us lie down in green pastures;
he leads us beside the still waters.
God restores our broken spirit.

**People: Jesus, you guide us in the paths of righteousness.
Even though we may walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
we fear no evil, for you, comfort us.**

Reader: Jesus has prepared a table for us in the presence of our foes;
Jesus has anointed us with the oil of salvation;
our cup runs over!

**People: Surely, goodness and mercy will follow us
all the days of our lives,
And we will dwell in the house
of our Good Shepherd forever and ever. Amen.**

*** Hymn of Praise**

Great Is Your Faithfulness

#423

*** Prayer of Invocation: [UNISON]**

Shepherd God, we rely on your guidance.
You keep us safe
You lead us to still waters.
You guide us gently into life – abundant life!
Help us to respond joyfully
when we hear your voice.
Amen.

*** Song of Praise:**

Glory to God

Pablo Sosa, 1988



Glo - ry, glo - ry, glo - ry! Glo - ry to God in the high - est, And on earth be



peace to all peo - ple, for God loves us all.

Readings

(See back of bulletin for complete readings)

First Reading **Acts 2:42-47 (NRSV)**

Gospel Reading **John 10:1-11 (NRSV)**

Continuing Testament from the New Century Hymnal



Time With Young Worshipers



Anthem

Shepherd of My Heart

O'Brien

1. My shepherd is the Lord, for nothing shall I want;
green are the pastures where I'm led to repose.
Near waters still and deep God will refresh my soul.
I am led onward in ways true to the Name.

Refrain: Guide me, O shepherd of my heart;
lead me homeward through the dark, into everlasting day.
Show me the way of truth and light; keep me always in your sight.
May my life never part from the shepherd of my heart.

2. If I should walk one day into the vale of darkness, no evil shall I fear with God at my side.
There with your crook and staff you give me strength and comfort;
you spread a banquet in the sight of my foes. (Refrain)

3. You anoint my head with oil; my cup is overflowing;
goodness and kindness crown the days of my life.
Within the Lord's own house I dwell in peace forever;
within the house of God my soul is at rest. (Refrain)

(Words: Psalm 23; music: Francis Patrick O'Brien; © Copyright 1992 by G.I.A. Publications, Inc.)

Sermon by Pastor John King

Hymn of Reflection

Surely No One Can Be Safer

#487

The Church at Prayer

The Family & Friends of Suzanne Patrick, Russ King, John Toula, Marilyn Pay, Caroline Chandler, Dorie Gabor, Joanne Frable (Sue Stenzel's sister), Evelyn Seager, George Snider, Mac Hoppel, Dassie Matsuoka, Kathy Smith, Jon Thompson, Rose Kaval, Tina Ortiz, Terry Heiman, Cindy Burton, Elizabeth Gadus, Ann Klonowski, Sheila Day, Betty Kaul, Jan Wardlaw, Stan McCain, Dottie Faust, Kathleen Stewart & Joe Blasko (her father), "Edna House", people who are unemployed and under employed.

(Please let the office know of any additions, corrections, or changes to our prayer lists.)

Silent Meditation

Prayers of the Church

Our Lord's Prayer: [UNISON]

Our Father-Mother, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever, Amen.

Presenting Our Tithes and Offerings

*** Call to Offering**

*** Offertory Hymn**

**We bring our gifts because we care,
They are a part of what we share.
Our love is strong, it heals, uplifts.
With hearts of joy we share our gifts. Amen.**

*** Offertory Dedication**

**Thank you, Risen Christ,
For moving our hearts to give of ourselves.
May our offerings
Give voice to your work for justice and peace in this world.
May we grow more mindful of you through our giving and our living. Amen.**

Going with God's Love

*** Hymn of Departure**

Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us

#252



Carrying the Light of Christ into the World – Acolyte



* Circle of Community

As we move to form a circle around the pews, we will sing **Halle, Halle, Hallelujah (3 times) Hallelujah, Hallelujah**. After the benediction is pronounced, we will sing it once more. Our circle is open near the door as a symbol of our welcome to new people to our community of faith.

Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja. Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja.

Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja. Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja.

The musical score is written for two staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and repetitive, with lyrics 'Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja.' repeated twice. Chords are indicated above the notes: A, E, A, D, Bm, E, C#7, F#m, Bm, E7sus4 E7, A.

* Benediction

Postlude

Fugue in g minor

J. S. Bach

Be *Strong* and *Courageous*

Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged,

For the *Lord* your *God*

Will be with you wherever you go.

- Joshua 1:9

Announcements:

MANY THANKS to Don Jackson for sharing his musical gifts with us today!

TODAY'S FLOWERS are dedicated in honor of Albert and AnnaMarie Melfo.

SAVE THE DATE - Let's Go Bowling! The Membership ministry is planning a bowling outing today, **Sunday April 30, from 1-3 pm**, at **North Woods Lanes** in Macedonia (10435 Valley View Road). The price is \$14.00 per person, which includes bowling for 2 hours, shoe rental, 2 pieces of pizza and beverages (soft drinks and water). See David Pastor if you haven't already signed up.

EDNA HOUSE - BUCC and Our Church's Wider Mission (OCWM) will be taking an offering on May 7th to benefit Edna House in Cleveland. The mission of Edna House is to assist women recovering from drug and alcohol addiction, and to give them a chance at a new life by providing a safe, sober place to live.

Edna House is independent of government funding and is sustained only through donations from individuals and businesses in the communities that they serve. Jennifer Lasky, the director of Edna House, will be giving a short presentation during our May 7th service. The offering to benefit Edna House will be taken up at that time.

In addition to cash donations, which are always appreciated, the current and ongoing need is for donations of coffee, powdered creamer, packets of sugar/sweet-n-low and tea bags. Please consider contributing to this amazing organization and thank you in advance for your generosity.

Attendance on Sunday, April 23rd, 2023 – Adults: 55; Kids: 4; Live Stream: 17; Total: 66

Readings

First Reading **Acts 2:42-47 (NRSV)**

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles.

All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need.

Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

Gospel Reading **John 10:1-11 (NRSV)**

Jesus said, "Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out."

"When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers."

Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them. So again Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them."

"I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly."

"I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep."

Readings

Continuing Testament – *My Shepherd is the Living God*

#247

New Century Hymnal

1. My shepherd is the living God,
I therefore nothing need;
In pastures fair, near pleasant streams
you settle me to feed.
You bring my wandering spirit back
when I forsake your ways,
And lead me for your mercy's sake
in paths of truth and grace.
2. When I walk through the shades of death,
your presence is my stay;
A word of your supporting breath
drives all my fears away.
Your hand, in sight of all my foes,
does still my table spread;
My cup with blessings overflows,
your oil anoints my head.
3. The sure provisions of my God
attend me all my days;
O may your house be my abode,
and all my work be praise.
There would I find a settled rest,
while others come and go -
No more a stranger or a guest,
but like a child at home.

Special Thanks:

APRIL 30, 2023

Head Usher: Betsey Wilson
Ushers: Pat Rolfe
Heidi Spangler
Lay Reader: Bridget Sproul
Greeter: Jon Thompson
Counters: Marge Culver
Janet Renovetz
Acolyte: ***Volunteer Needed***
Peace Candle: ***Volunteer Needed***
A/V Team: David Pastor
Flowers: Anne Melfo
Snack: Kathy Ford
Volunteer Needed
Set Up/Serve: Kathy Ford
Volunteer Needed
Clean Up: ***Volunteers Needed***



MAY 7, 2023

Head Usher: Jill Zedan
Ushers: Allison Colbert
Evelyn Seager
Lay Reader: Jon Thompson
Greeter: ***Volunteer Needed***
Counters: Marge Culver
Janet Renovetz
Acolyte: ***Volunteers Needed***
Peace Candle: ***Volunteers Needed***
A/V Team: Tim Wallis
Flowers: Maureen Stanley
Snack: Shelley Novotney
Volunteer Needed
Set Up/Serve: Shelley Novotney
Volunteer Needed
Clean Up: ***Volunteers Needed***

NOTES
